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STARS MY DESTINATION:

STARMAN



STRANGER STILL

ROBINSON · GOYER · SNEJBJERG · CHAMPAGNE



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WHAT HAPPENED?

I REMEMBER--

SWEET SMELL.
FLOWERS. SICKLY
SWEET SMELL.

MAYBE.

I REMEMBER MY STORE
BLOWING UP. SOON AFTER
DAVID WAS KILLED.

MAYBE I GOT
CAUGHT IN THE BLAST
AND I DIED.

NO.

THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

I RODE THE EXPLOSION
UPWARD TO THE STARS, AND
I BECAME CHAMPION OF
THAT BOUNTY.

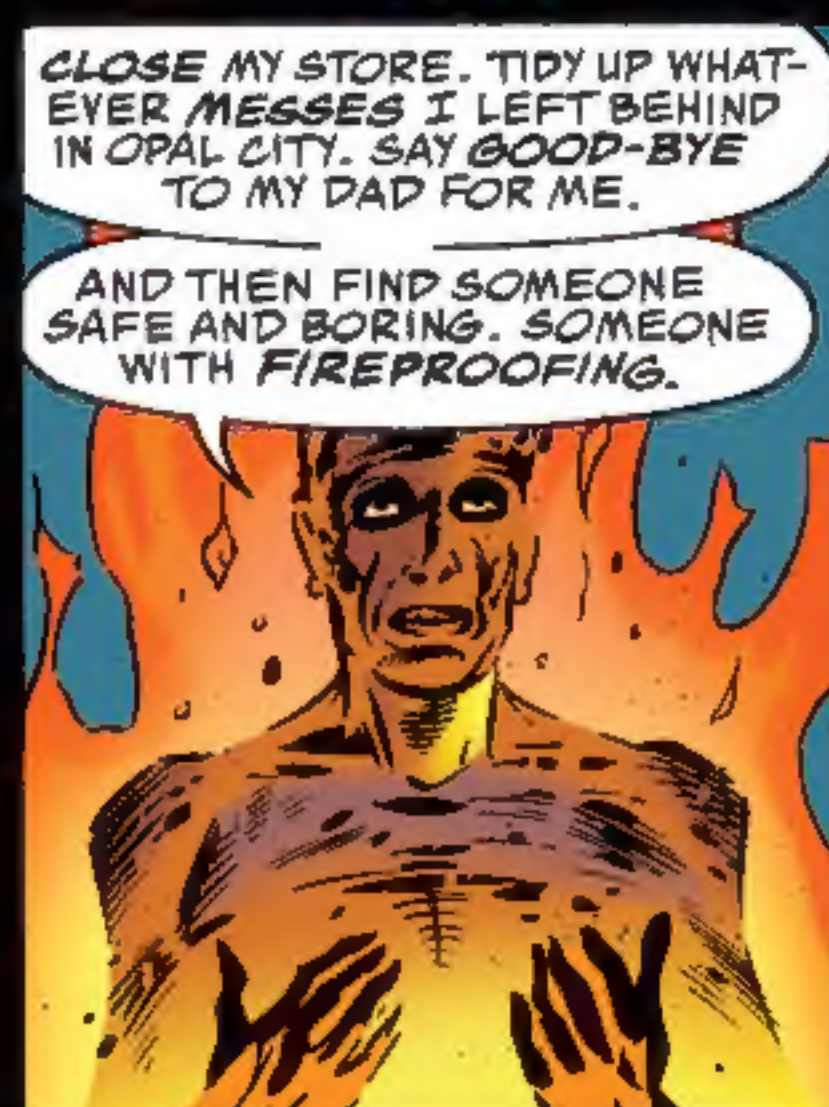
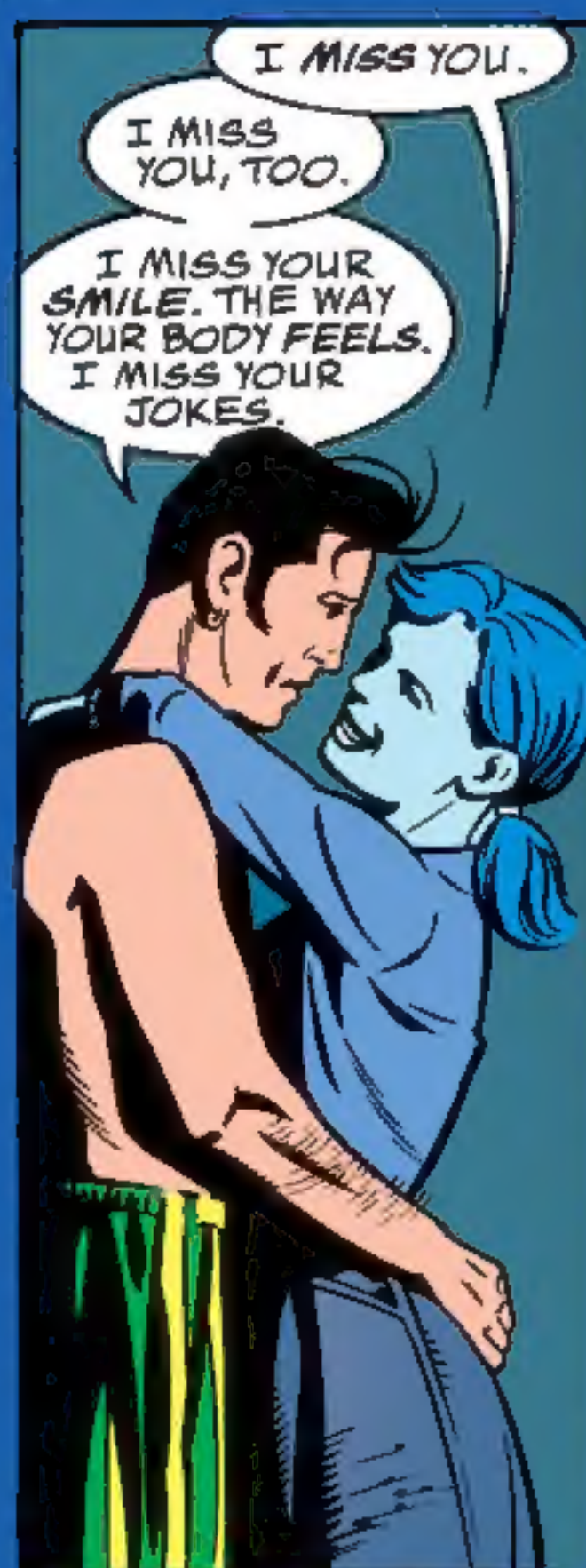
I'M STARMAN.

THAT'S RIGHT. NOW I REMEMBER.
NO. WAIT. I DON'T REMEMBER
AT ALL. I'M NOT SURE--

JACK.

JACK. MY
HONEY.

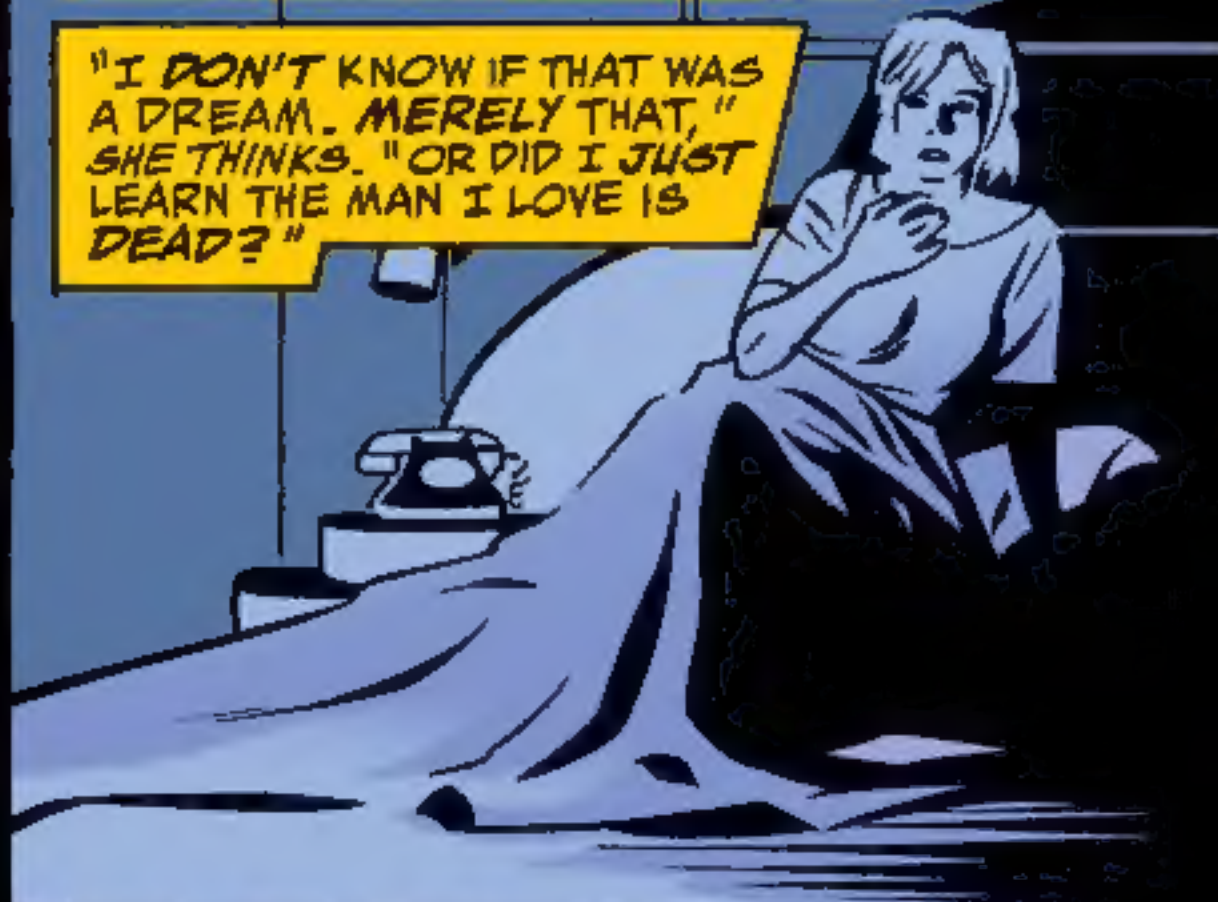
SADIE.
BABY.



"...WAKE UP."

OPAL CITY. WHERE SADIE AWAKENS NOT WITH A GASP OR A CRY, BUT RATHER A SMALL SHUDDER. LIKE ICY HANDS HAVE BRUSHED HER BACK.

"I DON'T KNOW IF THAT WAS A DREAM. MERELY THAT," SHE THINKS. "OR DID I JUST LEARN THE MAN I LOVE IS DEAD?"



WHAT HAPPENED?

OH, YEAH. NOW I REMEMBER.

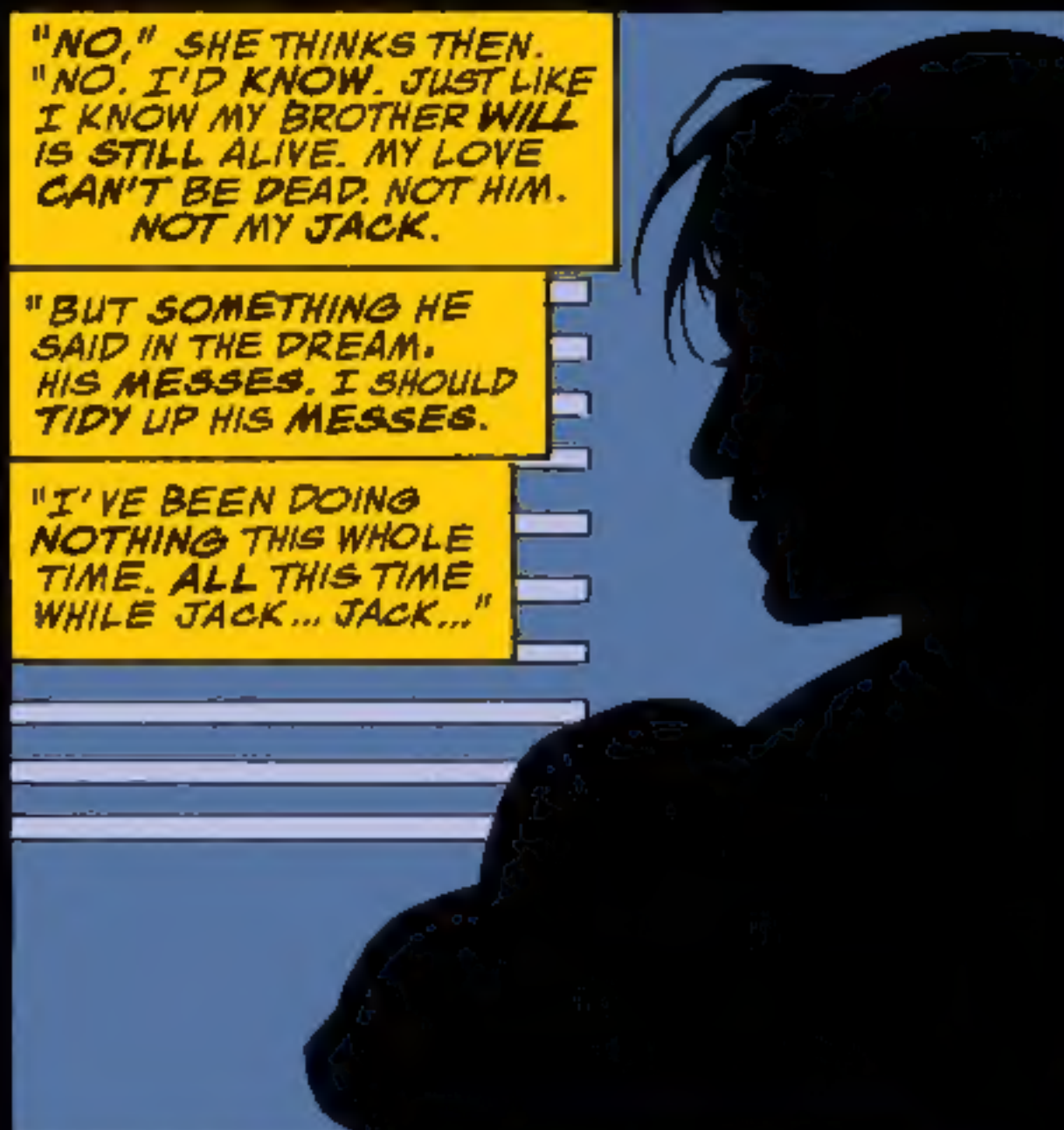
LIKE I TOLD SADIE.

ALIENS WITH RAY GUNS FIRED AT ALANNA STRANGE. I GOT IN THE WAY...

"NO," SHE THINKS THEN. "NO. I'D KNOW. JUST LIKE I KNOW MY BROTHER WILL IS STILL ALIVE. MY LOVE CAN'T BE DEAD. NOT HIM. NOT MY JACK."

"BUT SOMETHING HE SAID IN THE DREAM. HIS MESSES. I SHOULD TIDY UP HIS MESSES."

"I'VE BEEN DOING NOTHING THIS WHOLE TIME. ALL THIS TIME WHILE JACK... JACK..."



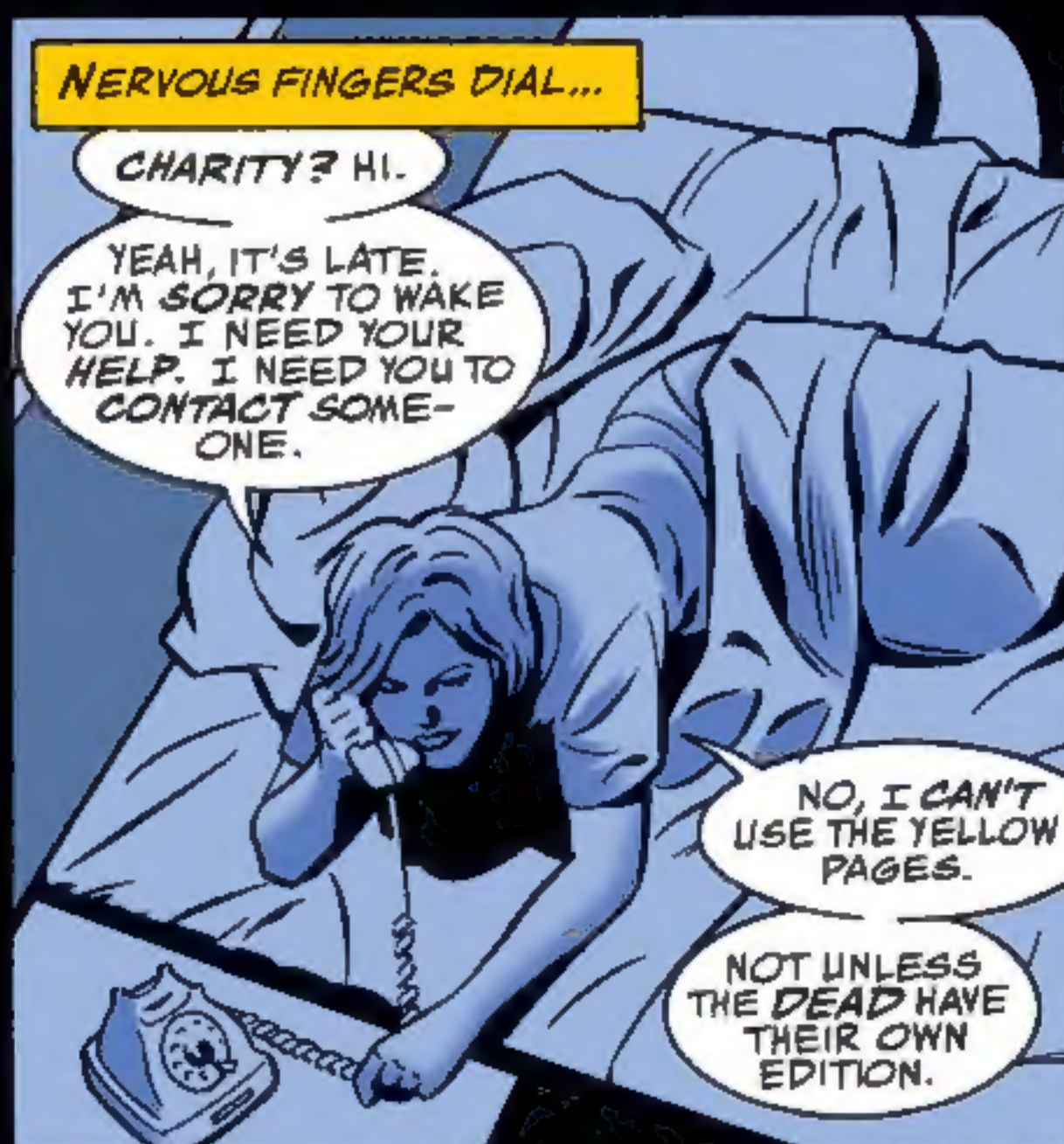
NERVOUS FINGERS DIAL...

CHARITY? HI.

YEAH, IT'S LATE. I'M SORRY TO WAKE YOU. I NEED YOUR HELP. I NEED YOU TO CONTACT SOMEONE.

NO, I CAN'T USE THE YELLOW PAGES.

NOT UNLESS THE DEAD HAVE THEIR OWN EDITION.



...AND I DIED.

FINITO.



END OF...

...STORY?!

FROM THE SHADE'S JOURNAL...

In Jack's search for Will Payton (a prior Starman and Sadie's brother) he had encountered Adam Strange on the planet Rann.

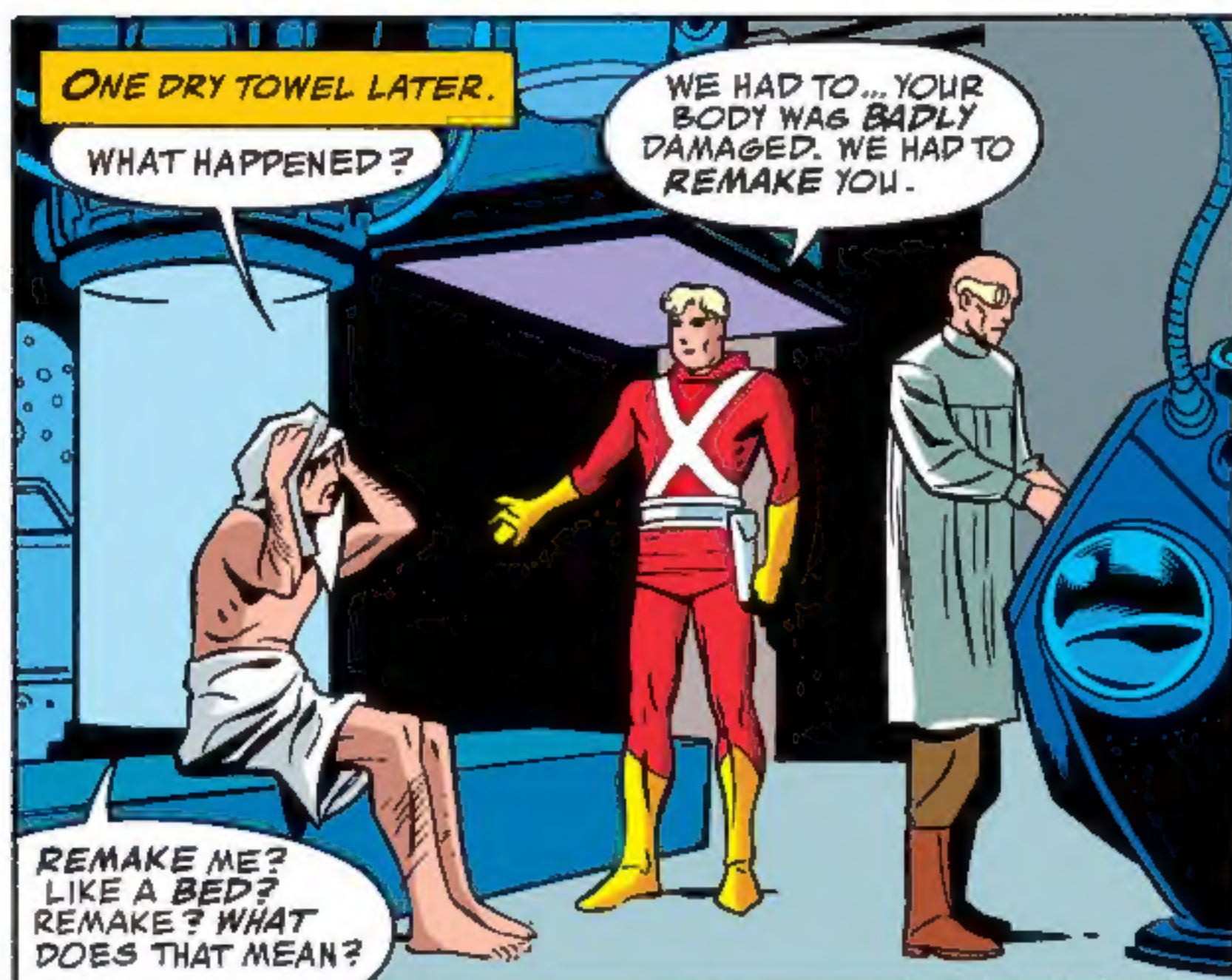
Rann and other planets were about to sign a peace treaty. Terrorists attacked led by Turran Kha (the sworn enemy of Jack's alien friend Mikaal Tomas). Jack got in the way of a ray blast intended for Adam's wife Alanna and appeared to die.

Now read on...

LOOK,
SARDATH, HE'S
OPENED
HIS EYES.

THE LONG GOODBYES

ROBINSON & GOYER story ROBINSON words SNEJBORG penciller CHAMPAGNE inker
OAKLEY letterer WRIGHT colorist TOMASI editor GOODWIN guiding light
— JACK KNIGHT created by ROBINSON & HARRIS —



ONE DRY TOWEL LATER.

WHAT HAPPENED?

WE HAD TO... YOUR BODY WAS BADLY DAMAGED. WE HAD TO REMAKE YOU.

REMAKE ME? LIKE A BED? REMAKE? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?



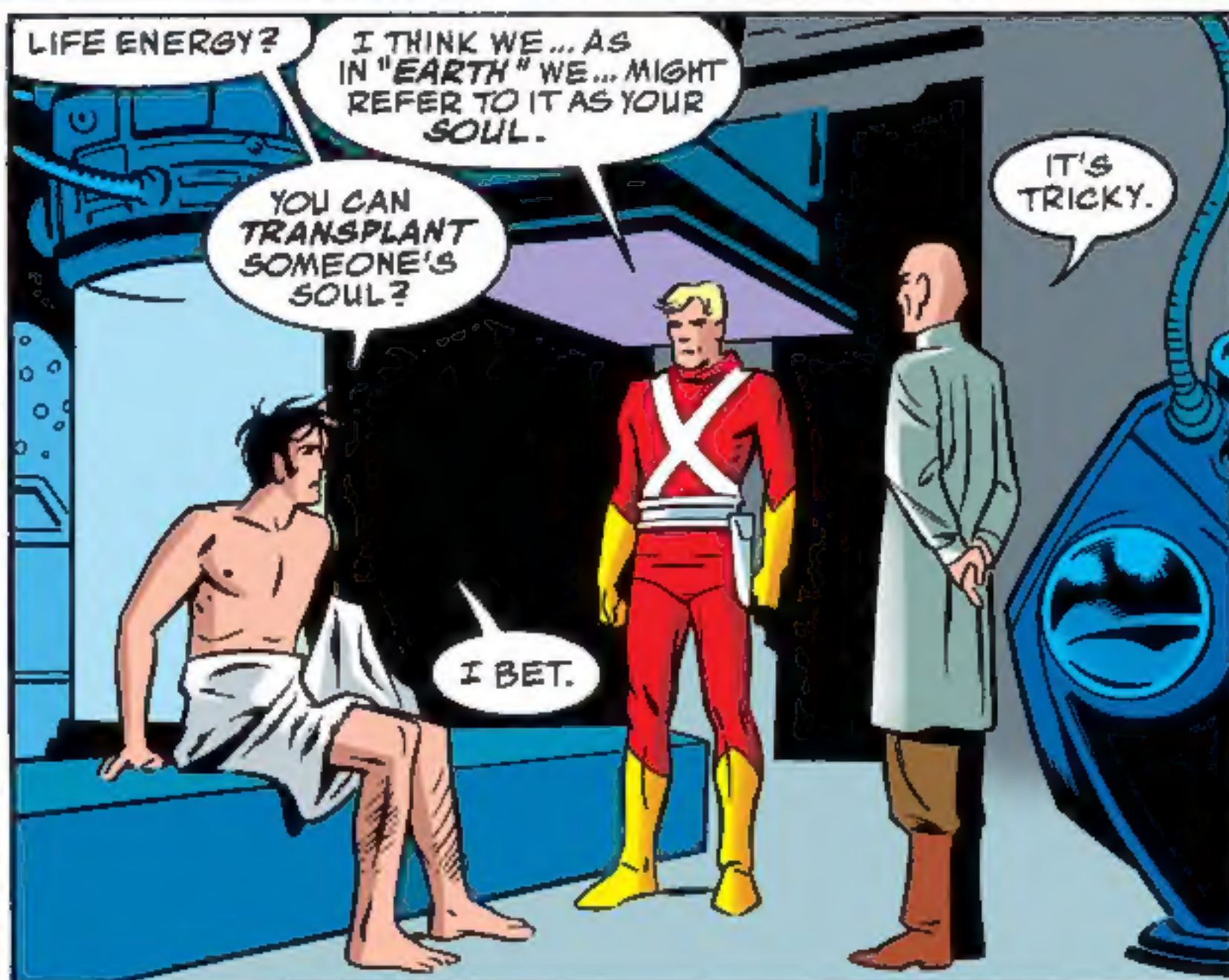
USING NANOTECHNOLOGY... SUB-ATOMIC ASSEMBLERS... WE TOOK DNA. WE CLONED YOUR FLESH, YOUR SKIN. WE REAPPLIED THAT TO YOUR SKELETON, AFTER CUTTING AWAY DAMAGED CELLS.

CLONED? I'M A CLONE?



JUST PARTS OF YOUR BODY.

WE DIDN'T HAVE TO CAPTURE YOUR LIFE ENERGY AND TRANSFER IT TO A COMPLETELY NEW HOUSING.



LIFE ENERGY?

I THINK WE... AS IN "EARTH" WE... MIGHT REFER TO IT AS YOUR SOUL.

YOU CAN TRANSPLANT SOMEONE'S SOUL?

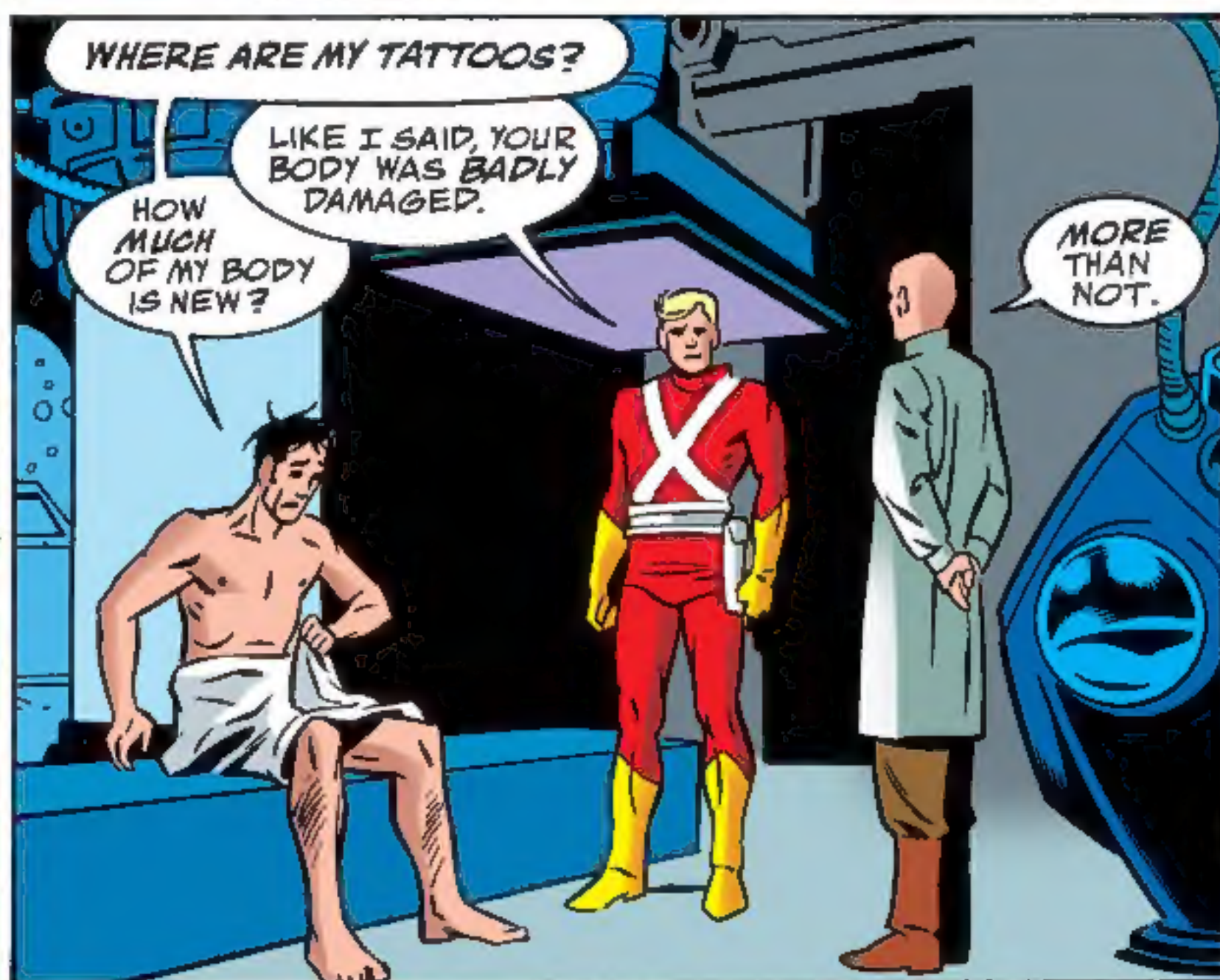
IT'S TRICKY.

I BET.



OH, MY GOD!

WHAT?



WHERE ARE MY TATTOOS?

LIKE I SAID, YOUR BODY WAS BADLY DAMAGED.

HOW MUCH OF MY BODY IS NEW?

MORE THAN NOT.

SO WHAT NOW? WHAT
HAPPENED AFTER I WAS
SHOT?

TURRAN KHA
FAILED TO ASSAS-
SINATE ANYONE
IMPORTANT TO
THE TREATY
SIGNING...

... BUT IN THE
CONFUSION, HE
ESCAPED. HE
TOOK A
HOSTAGE.

OUR
DAUGHTER.

THAT'S
BAD.

BAD FOR
KHA, WHEN I
FIND HIM.

YOU'RE
SURE YOU
CAN?

MIKAAL
IS SURE HE
CAN TRACE
KHA'S ENERGY
TRAIL.

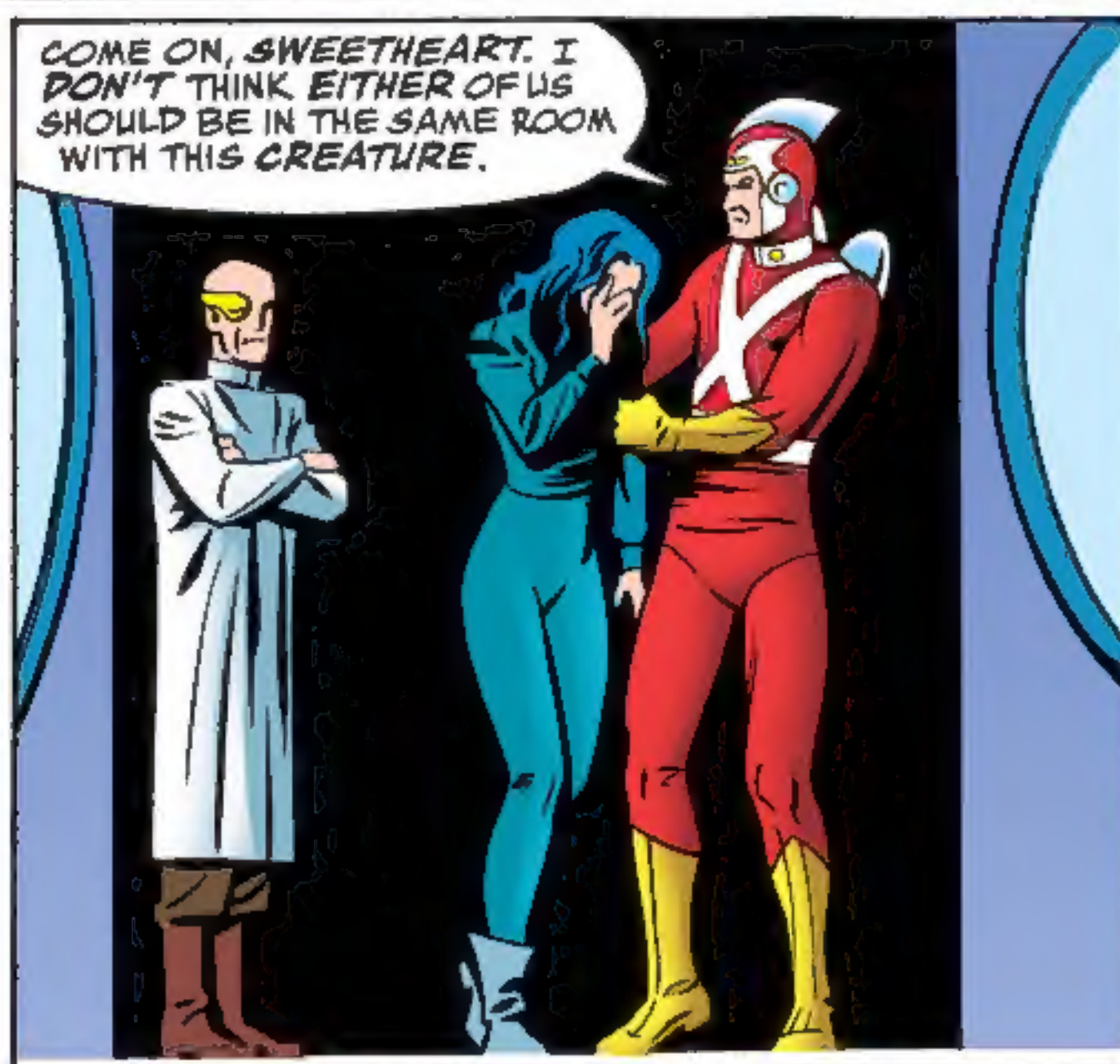
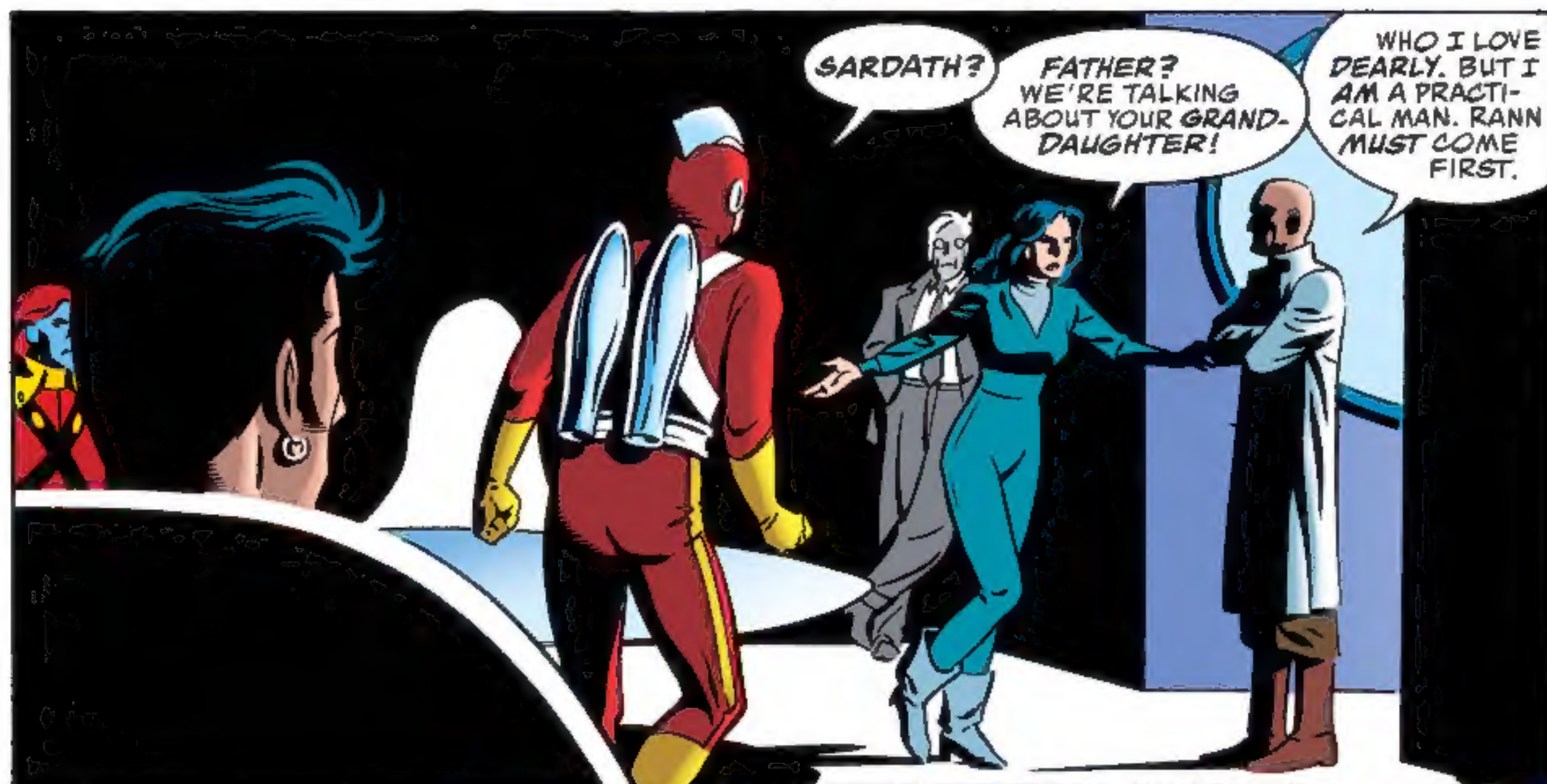
KHA
HASN'T FLED
THE PLANET?

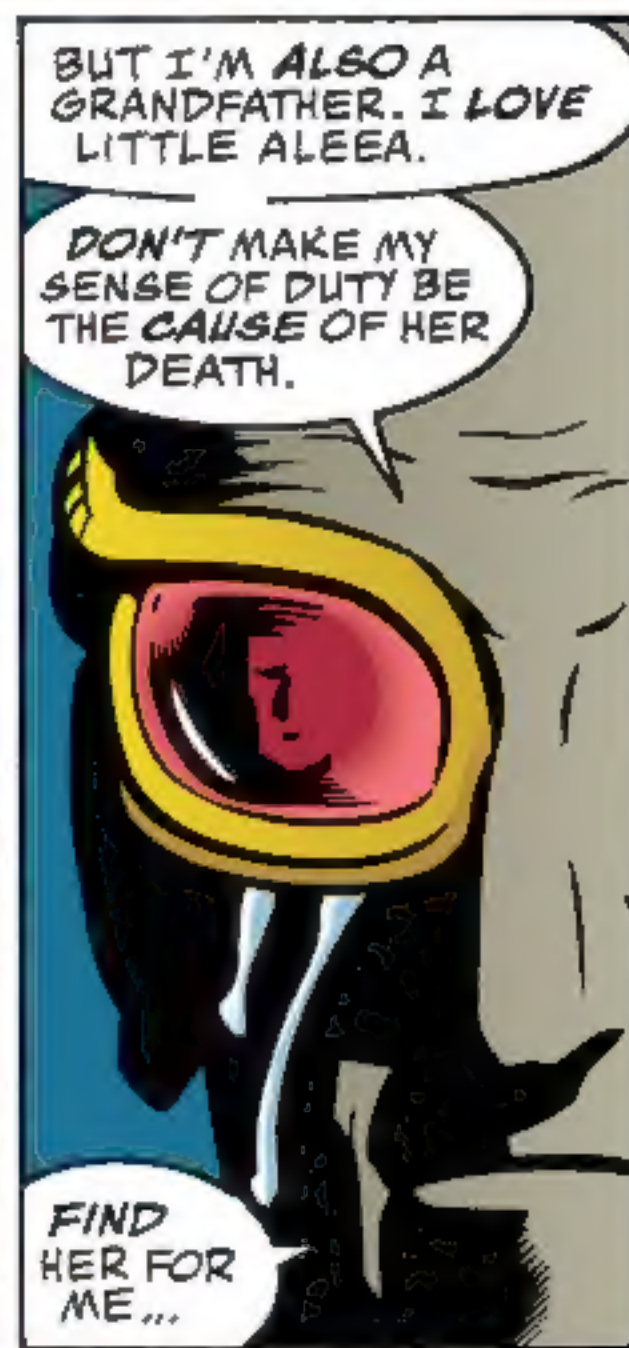
HE CAN'T. HIS
VESSEL WAS DAM-
AGED WHEN IT CRASHED,
REMEMBER? AND OUR
PLANETWIDE SENSORS
WILL PREVENT HIM FROM
LEAVING IN ANY
OTHER CRAFT.

THAT'S ONE OF HIS DE-
MANDS FOR MY DAUGHTER'S
RETURN. SAFE PASSAGE
OFF RANN.

HIS
DEMANDS?

HE CONTACTED
US. HIS OTHER
CONCERNS THE TREATY.
SARDATH MUSTN'T SIGN
THE TREATY.





WE FLY
HARD.

HARD AND FURTHER THAN I
EVER THOUGHT WE WOULD.

THE LAND WE CROSS
HAS LONG SINCE LOST
ANY VERDANT HUE.
THIS IS OLD RANN NOW.
DEAD RANN.

THE FLIGHT... AND THINKING
ABOUT WHAT MAY AWAIT US,
STOPS ME FROM THINKING
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.

BURNING. SEEMING
SO CLOSE TO DEATH.
NEW FLESH AND SKIN.
NO TATTOOS. NO
TATTOOS!

AND LIKE A THOUSAND
TIMES BEFORE, I ASK
MYSELF IF ALL THIS IS
WORTH IT... MY QUEST...
FOR THE LOVE OF
SADIE PAYTON.

WE FLY HARDER
AND THEN...

THERE!
TURRAN KHA
IS HIDING
WITHIN.

THE TYLOLEAN
LABYRINTHS. I'M
IMPRESSED HE KNEW
OF THIS PLACE.

IT WAS BUILT BY
RANN'S FIRST RACE.
IT WOULD BE REVERED,
STUDIED AND PRESERVED
IN ANY CULTURE BUT RANN'S
...EVER EMBRACING
THE FUTURE.





TRANSMIT OUR LOCATION TO RANAGAR.

IT LOOKS LIKE A GIANT EFFIGY.

IT IS... BUT WITHIN THE BODY, THERE ARE CORRIDORS LIKE A BODY'S VEINS AND ROOMS LIKE ITS ORGANS. IT'S EASY TO GET LOST.

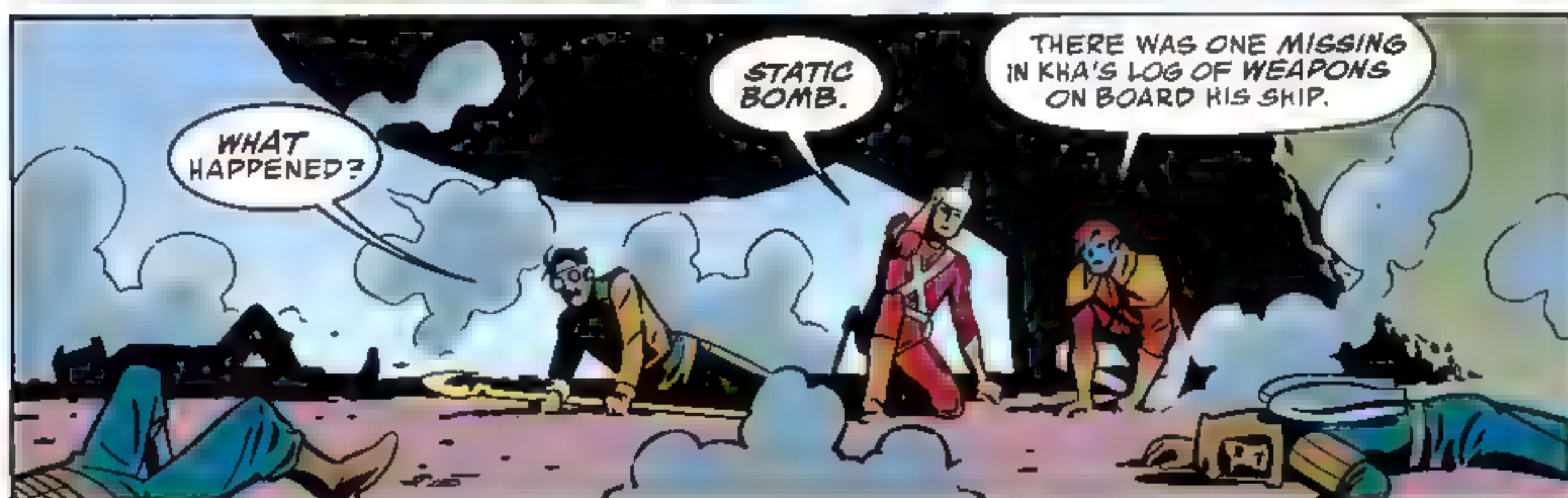
NO SENTRIES. THAT'S ODD. COME ON, WE MUST BE--



AHHH!

AHH!

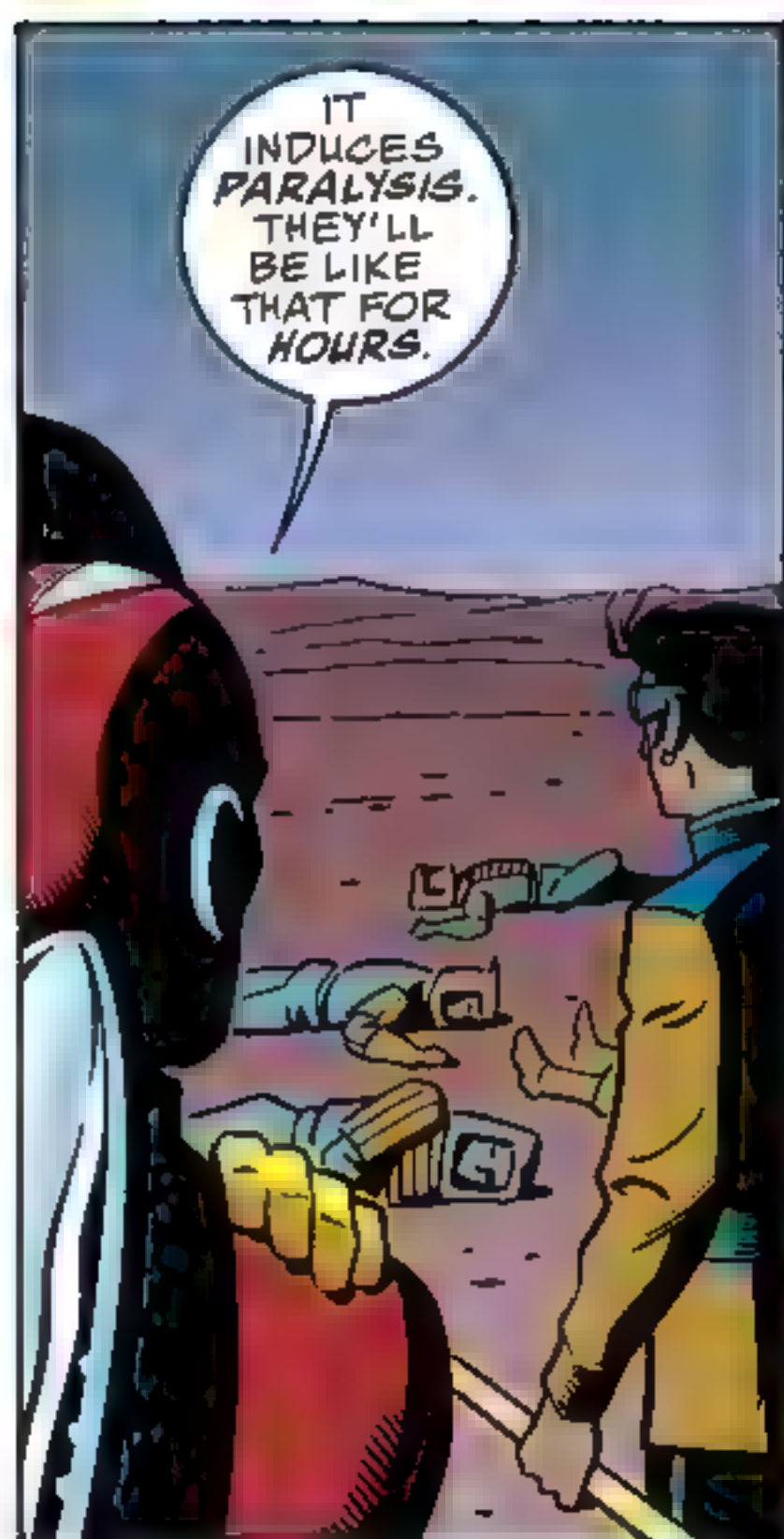
AHHH!



WHAT HAPPENED?

STATIC BOMB.

THERE WAS ONE MISSING IN KHA'S LOG OF WEAPONS ON BOARD HIS SHIP.



IT INDUCES PARALYSIS. THEY'LL BE LIKE THAT FOR HOURS.



BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE DIDN'T--

AS IT FLASHED, OUT OF REFLEX I SWITCHED ON THE ROD'S ENERGY SHIELD...

...YOU TWO WERE LUCKY YOU WERE CLOSE TO ME.



SO, IT'S THE THREE OF US, MOE, LARRY AND CURLY... AGAINST HOW MANY?

TO GET MY DAUGHTER BACK, I'D FIGHT AN ARMY.

AND TO DESTROY TURRAN KHA I'D DO THE SAME.

WELL WHOOPADEEDO.

WHY DO YOU HATE HIM SO... IF HE DIDN'T ACTUALLY KILL YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?

I DON'T KNOW. PERHAPS IT'S ME. PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE HE IS EVERYTHING THAT'S BAD ABOUT MY RACE. AND HE PURSUED ME RELENTLESSLY. I WAS CONSIDERED A TRAITOR FOR SIDING WITH HUMANITY.

I TOOK SOLACE IN KNOWING THAT IF I WAS THE LAST OF MY RACE, AT LEAST I WASN'T A CONQUEST-DRIVEN MONSTER LIKE EVERYONE ELSE ON MY WORLD. BUT NOW... WITH KHA ALIVE...

I'LL SAY IT AGAIN, MIK. YOU'VE CHANGED.

WE CAN DISCUSS OUR MOTIVATIONS LATER.

YES WE HAVE TO SAVE ALEEA, WHILE WE HAVE TIME.

WE MUST PROCEED...

...QUIETLY.

STILL NO RESPONSE FROM RANAGAR TO OUR DEMANDS.

THIS IS TERRIBLE, KHA...



...NOTHING IS GOING TO PLAN. BY NOW WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SPENDING THE BOUNTY THRONE WORLD IS PAYING US FOR THIS JOB.

INSTEAD WE'RE STUCK HERE LIKE RATS. AND SO MANY OF US FELL IN THE BANQUET ASSAULT.

MORE REWARD FOR THE REST OF US TO SPLT. STOP YOUR WHINING.

ADAM STRANGE WILL RESPOND. HE MUST. HE WANTS HIS DAUGHTER BACK.



HOW DO YOU KNOW HE WON'T PUT THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OVER THE LIFE OF ONE CHILD... EVEN IF SHE IS HIS BLOOD?

BECAUSE HE'S FROM EARTH.

EARTH MEN DON'T THINK LIKE US. THEY'RE STUPID AND ACT LIKE--



STUPID OR NOT, KHA...







RANAGAR. WHERE OLD, ADAMANT DIPLOMATS GATHER. A SHEET OF FINE, HAND-PRESSED PAPER IS LAID OUT BEFORE THEM. A QUILL PEN (TAKEN FROM THE PLUME OF THE REVERED GARID BIRD) IS DIPPED IN INK.

THE DOCUMENT, A HISTORIC WORK--A TREATY BRINGING PEACE-- THAT WILL ONE DAY PERHAPS LEAD TO AN EVEN GREATER PEACE-- IS SIGNED BY EACH OF THE ATTENDING PLANETS' REPRESENTATIVES.

THE SIGNING QUILL IS PASSED TO EACH OF THEM IN TURN...

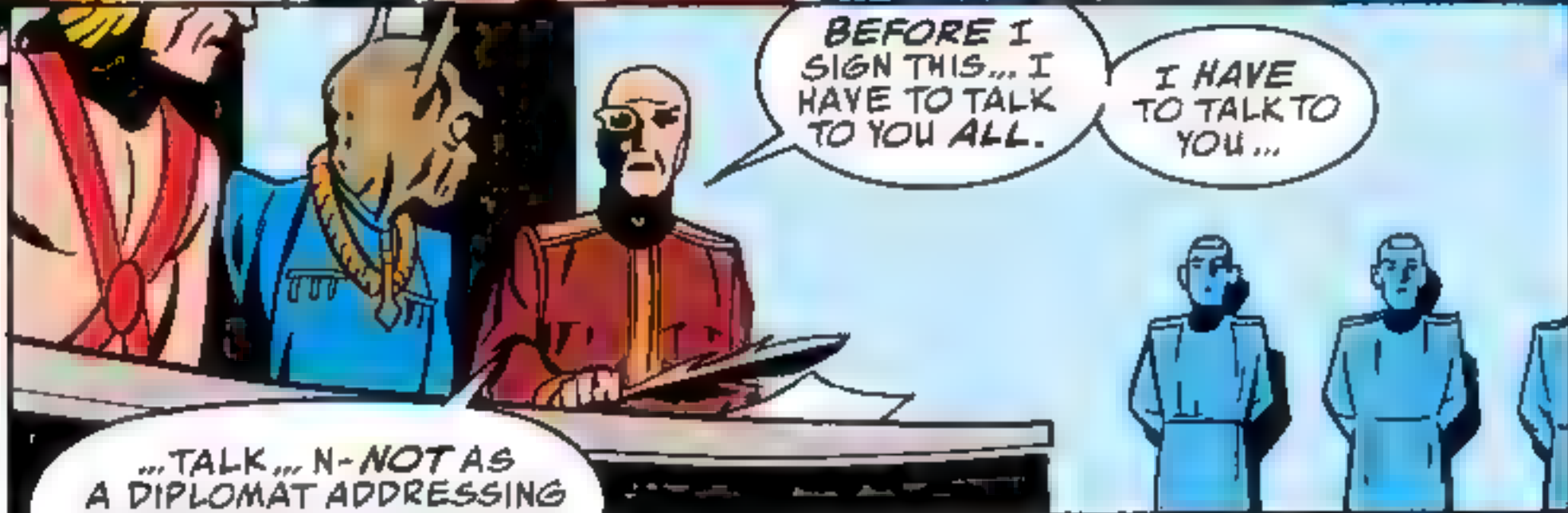


... AND FINALLY TO SARDATH.



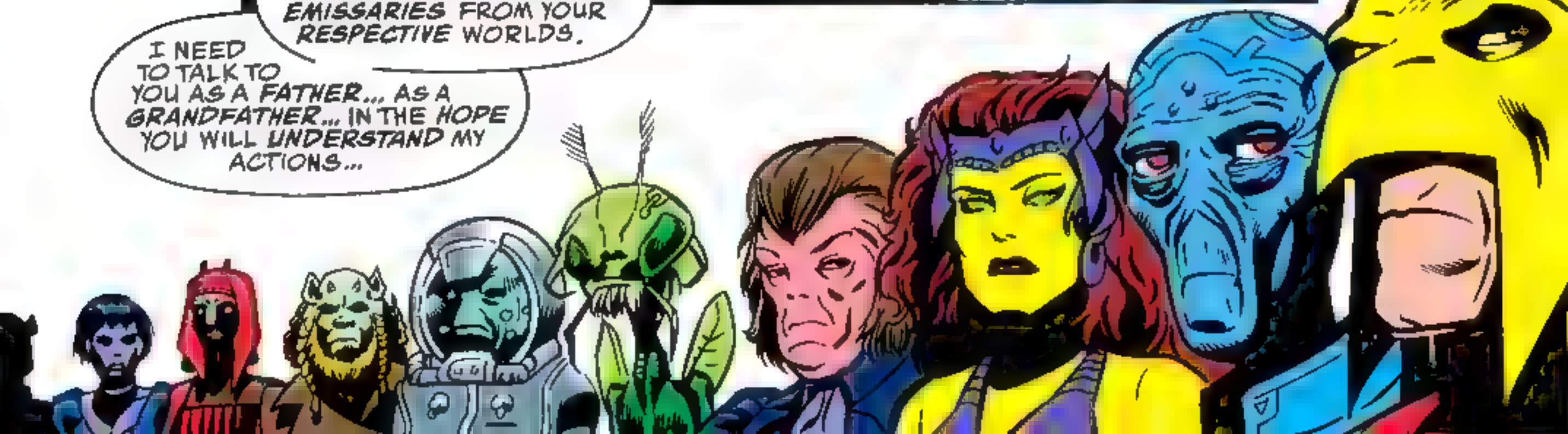
BEFORE I SIGN THIS... I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU ALL.

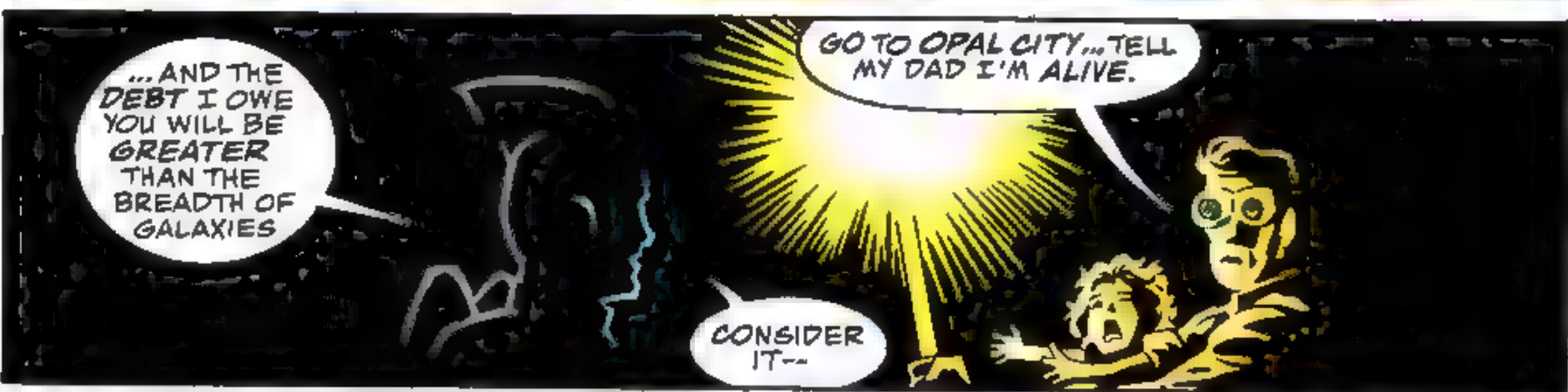
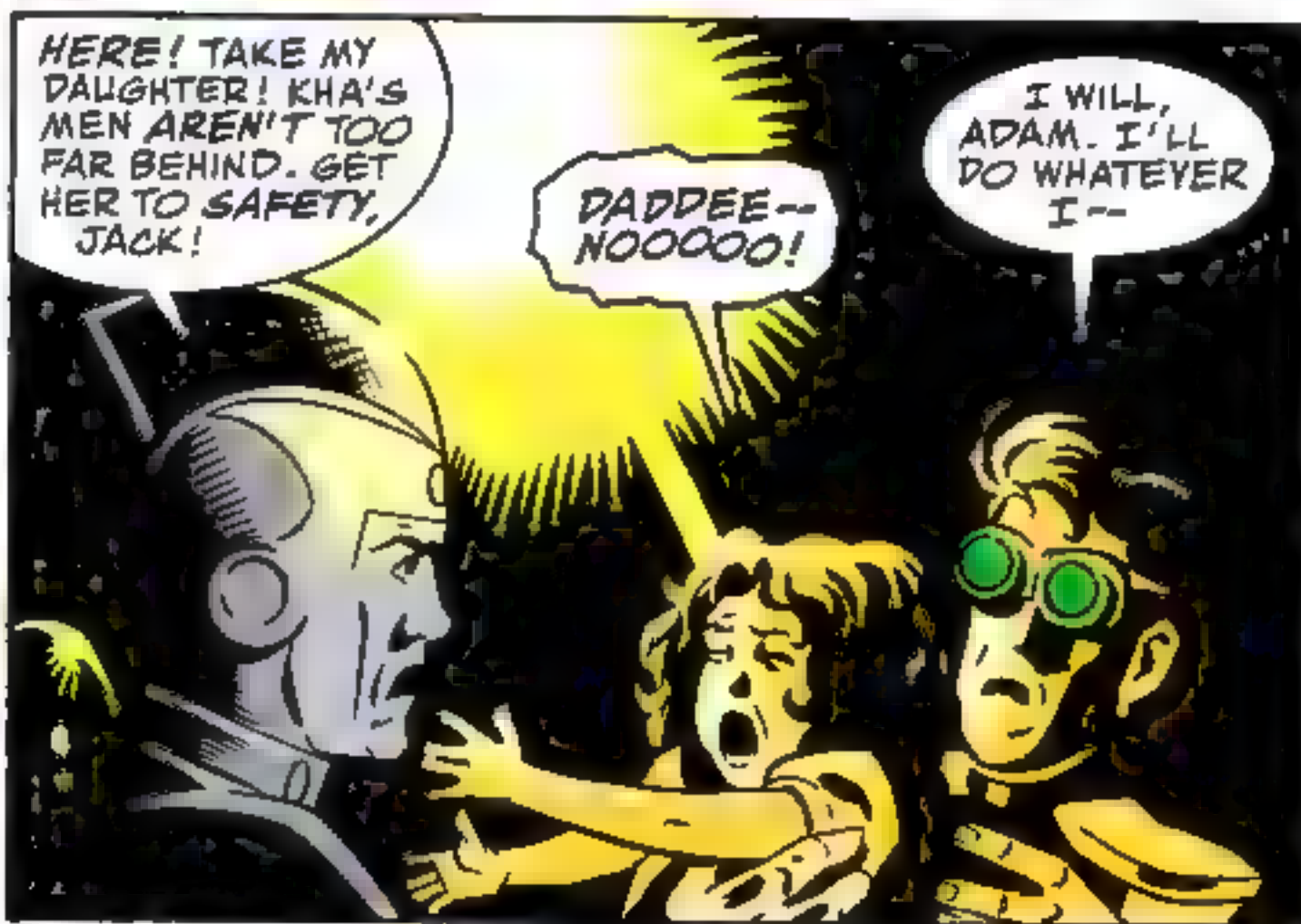
I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU...



...TALK... N-NOT AS A DIPLOMAT ADDRESSING EMISSARIES FROM YOUR RESPECTIVE WORLDS.

I NEED TO TALK TO YOU AS A FATHER... AS A GRANDFATHER... IN THE HOPE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND MY ACTIONS...





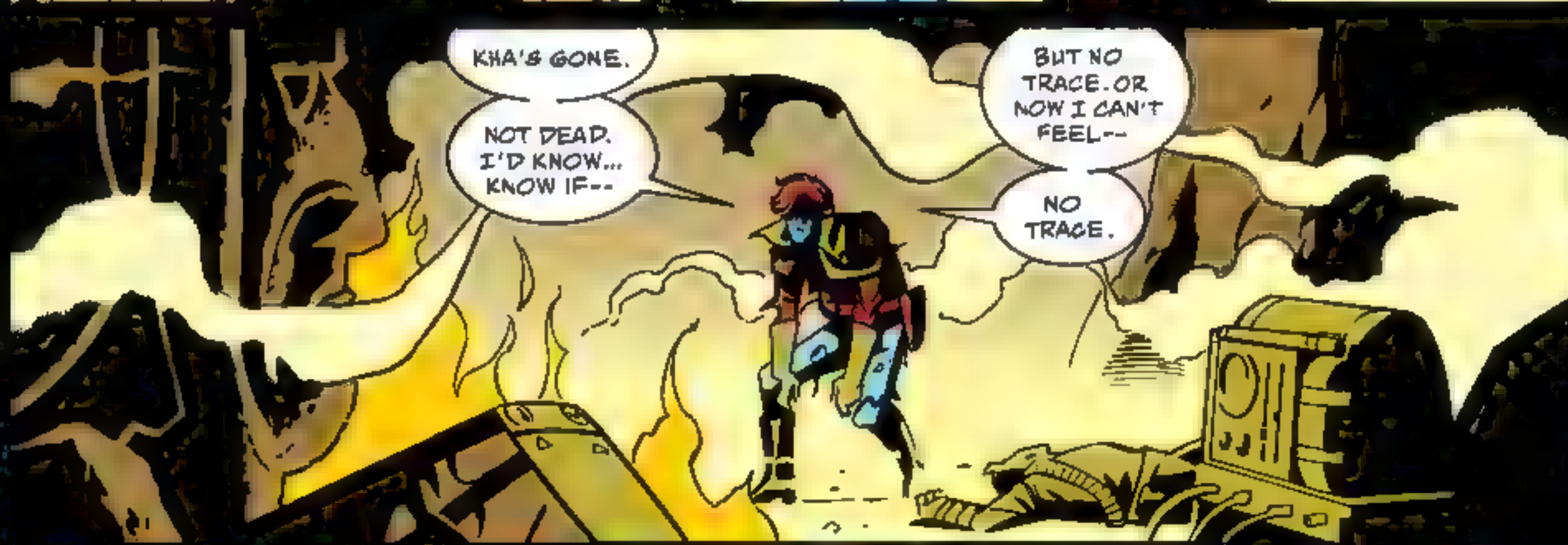




DON'T KNOW
WHAT--

--WHAT--

ALL I
KNOW--

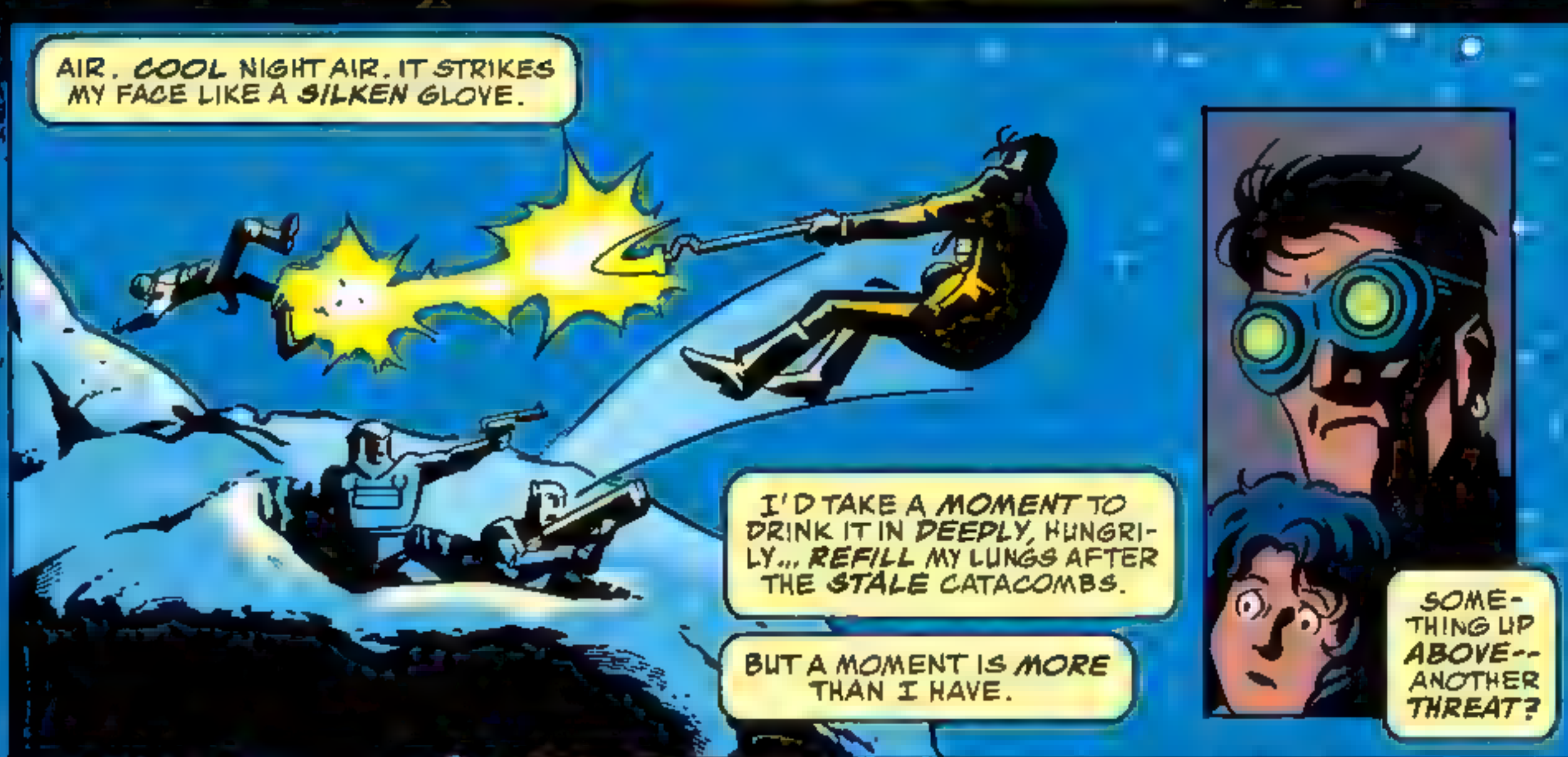


KHA'S GONE.

NOT DEAD.
I'D KNOW...
KNOW IF--

BUT NO
TRACE. OR
NOW I CAN'T
FEEL--

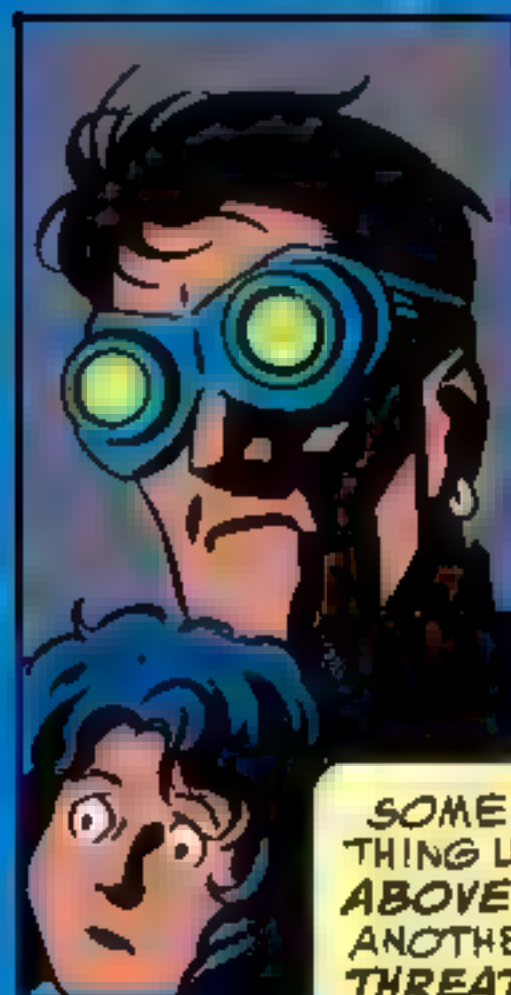
NO
TRACE.



AIR. COOL NIGHT AIR. IT STRIKES
MY FACE LIKE A SILKEN GLOVE.

I'D TAKE A MOMENT TO
DRINK IT IN DEEPLY, HUNGRILY...
REFILL MY LUNGS AFTER
THE STALE CATACOMBS.

BUT A MOMENT IS MORE
THAN I HAVE.



SOME-
THING UP
ABOVE--
ANOTHER
THREAT?

SURRENDER WHILE
YOU CAN.

YOU'RE
CRAZY. WE OUT-
GUN YOU!



ME, OUT-
GUNNED?

LOOK
UP,
BOYS...



"...THERE'S MORE IN THE
SKY THAN STARS TONIGHT."



IT WAS YOUR FATHER, JACK.

ERR, THE MOTHER BOX ISN'T MY FATHER, HE'S NOT EVEN--

OH, WHATEVER. TED CONVINCED YOU NOT TO SIGN?



I KNEW IF YOUR SEARCH FOR KHA WENT TOO FAR AFIELD, I'D FADE OUT ANYWAY. I'D BE USELESS TO YOU. AND IF WE'D BROUGHT OUR ROCKET IT MIGHT HAVE ALERTED KHA TO OUR COMING.

BUT HERE IN RANAGAR, I COULD TALK TO SARDATH. FATHER TO FATHER.



IRONICALLY, KHA'S KIDNAPPING OF ALEEA WORKED IN REVERSE TO HIS INTENTIONS.

IT UNITED THE OTHER PLANETS BEHIND ME.



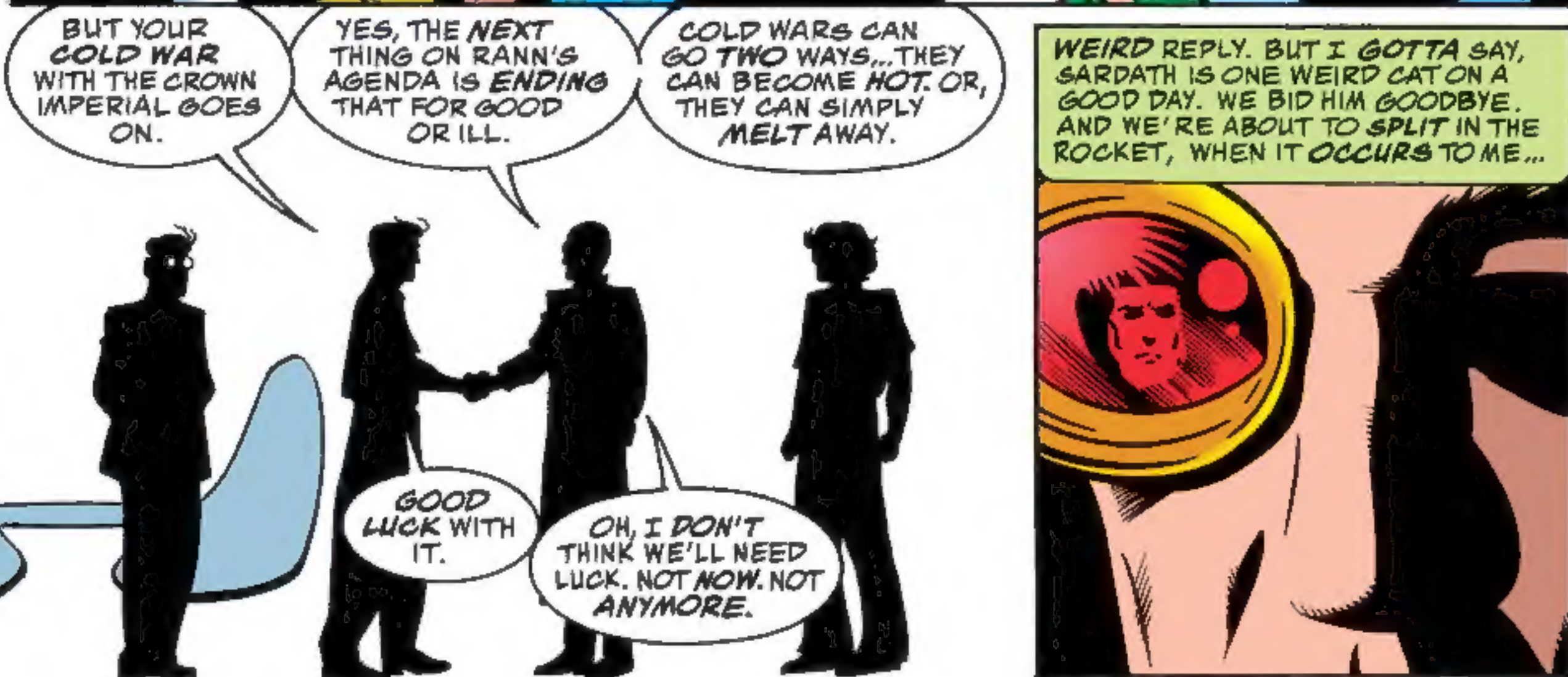
THE WAY THEY ACTED... COMING TOGETHER IN A CRISIS LIKE THAT... IT MAKES ME BELIEVE EVEN MORE IN THE PEACE WE'VE CREATED.



TURRAN KHA REMAINS AT LARGE.

WE'LL FIND HIM.

THE CHANCES OF HIS ESCAPING OFF-PLANET ARE ONE IN A MILLION.



BUT YOUR COLD WAR WITH THE CROWN IMPERIAL GOES ON.

YES, THE NEXT THING ON RANN'S AGENDA IS ENDING THAT FOR GOOD OR ILL.

COLD WARS CAN GO TWO WAYS... THEY CAN BECOME HOT. OR, THEY CAN SIMPLY MELT AWAY.

GOOD LUCK WITH IT.

OH, I DON'T THINK WE'LL NEED LUCK. NOT NOW. NOT ANYMORE.

WEIRD REPLY. BUT I GOTTA SAY, SARDATH IS ONE WEIRD CAT ON A GOOD DAY. WE BID HIM GOODBYE. AND WE'RE ABOUT TO SPLIT IN THE ROCKET, WHEN IT OCCURS TO ME...



...ONE LAST FAREWELL
NEEDS TO BE MADE.

WE'RE GETTING
READY TO LEAVE, ALANNA.
I JUST WANTED TO SAY
GOODBYE. GIVE MY
REGARDS TO ADAM WHEN
YOU NEXT SEE HIM.

I WILL, JACK.
THANK YOU FOR
EVERYTHING. MY
LIFE. MY DAUGHTER'S.
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT ELSE I CAN
SAY BUT THANK YOU...
AND THAT I HOPE
YOU FIND WHATEVER
IT IS YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR.

SAY, WHAT ARE
YOU GUYS DOING
OUT HERE,
ANYWAY?

IMAGINING
ADAM... SOME-
WHERE OUT THERE,
SO VERY FAR
AWAY.

WE DO
THAT A
LOT.

GET... YEAH.
THINKING ABOUT MY
WIFE AND KID. I
MISS THEM.

NOTICE FROM
THE PLATES IT'S A
RENTAL CAR. YOU
GOT FAR TO GO
IN HER?

OPAL CITY. I'M GOING
TO MEET THE FATHER
OF A FRIEND.

WELL, YOU'RE
ALREADY IN TURK
COUNTY. YOU'LL BE
COMING UPON OL'
OPAL 'FORE YOU
KNOW IT. COME
FAR?

OH,
YEAH...

"...IT'S BEEN
A LONG
JOURNEY."

LOST
IN THE
STARS?

The End

Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT
AWESOME
LOOKS LIKE".

DCP